

29. AN INTERESTING GRASS FROM MAHARASHTRA

(With twelve text-figures)

Raizada & Jain (1957) recognised 3 species of *Eremopogon* (Hack.) Stapf namely *E. foveolatus* (Del.) Stapf, *E. strictus* (Roxb.) Camus & *E. tuberculatus* (Hack.) Camus, all of which are found in India, the latter two being endemic. However, Bor (1960) has synonymised *E. strictus* (Roxb.) Camus with *E. foveolatus* (Del.) Stapf, and recognised only 2 species under the genus. He stated that *E. tuberculatus* (Hack.) Camus is endemic in Madhya Pradesh and that it is a rarely collected.

Recently an interesting grass was collected from Dhulia district in Maharashtra which on critical examination and on matching with Duthie's specimens 8465 & 10595 mentioned in Bor's exsiccata, turned out to be *E. tuberculatus* (Hack.) Camus. So far this species was considered to be endemic in Madhya Pradesh from the adjoining districts of Betul, Khandawa & Asirgarh (Nimar district) (Hooker 1896; Bor 1960; Maheshwari 1961) and therefore, its occurrence in Maharashtra is of phytogeographical interest, as this extends the distribution of this endemic grass in Madhya Pradesh to further south in Maharashtra as well and suggests the possibility of its occurrence in the other neighbouring districts too.

The species can be easily differentiated from the other species of genus *Eremopogon*

(Hack.) Stapf by its lower glume of sessile spikelet being tuberculate at keels and nerves and not pitted.

Eremopogon tuberculatus (Hack.) Camus in Ann. Soc. Linn. Lyon. 68: 207, 1921; Raizada & Jain in J. Bombay nat. Hist. Soc. 54 (4): 858-865, 1957; Bor, Grasses of Burma, Ceylon, India & Pakistan 149, 1960; Maheshwari in J. Bombay nat. Hist. Soc. 58(1): 213, 1961. *Andropogon tubercultus* Hack. in DC. Monog. Androp. 6: 404, 1889; Hooker f. Fl. Br. India 7: 168, 1896.

Specimen examined: Laling Kuran, near Dhulia, District Dhulia, Pataskar 118364 (8-10-1969) deposited in the regional herbarium of the Western Circle, Botanical Survey of India, Poona (BSI).

A general sketch (see p. 205) along with the dissection drawings is provided for facilitating easy identification.

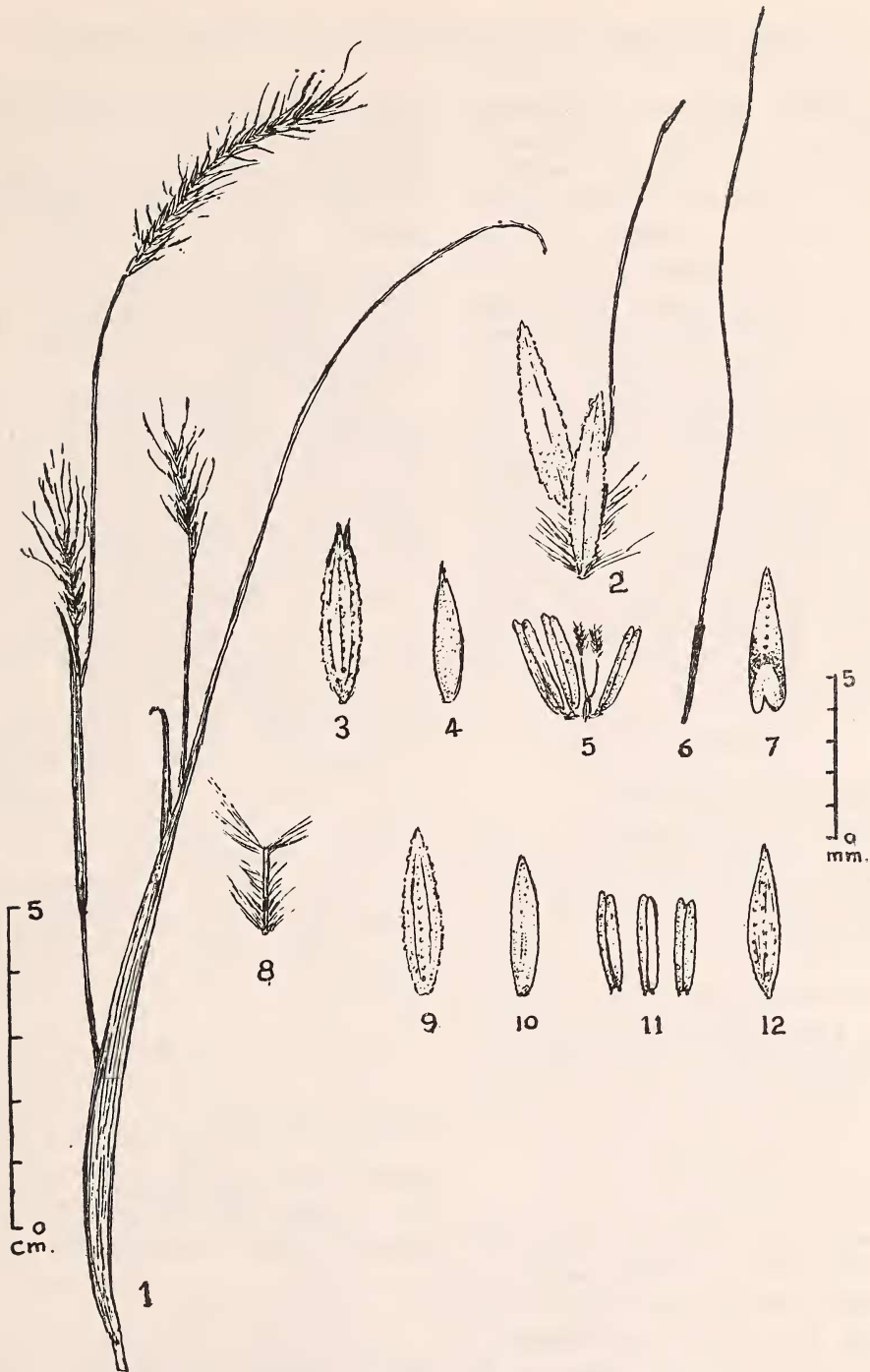
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MISCELLANEOUS NOTES



Figs. 1-2. *Eremopogon tuberculatus* (Hack.) Camus: 1. Upper portion of culm; 2. A pair of sessile & pedicelled spikelet; 3-7. Sessile spikelet: 3. Lower glume; 4. Lower lemma; 5. Stamens & pistil; 6. Upper lemma; 7. Upper glume; 8-12. Pedicelled spikelet: 8. Pedicel; 9. Lower glume; 10. Lemma; 11. Stamens; 12. Upper glume. (For description see p. 204).